

**SYSTEM, METHOD, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT  
FOR CREATING A HIERARCHY OF SOFTWARE COMPONENTS BASED ON THE  
PROGRAMMING CONSTRUCTS THEREIN**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5           A hierarchy of software components is created based on the programming constructs  
therein using a computer linked to a database having a collection of legacy software therein.  
Key component characteristics, e.g., programming constructs are defined. These constructs  
are assigned weights based on the difficulty or ease with which they can be reused in a new  
software component for use with a Web system or other network system. The legacy  
10       collection is searched to determine which, if any, of the key constructs are included therein.  
An ordered list is output that includes a list of the components containing the key constructs.  
The order of the list is based on the weight of the constructs in each component and the  
frequency with which they occur in each component. The list is then used to determine the  
effort and thus, the expense required to move entire components or blocks of code in the  
15       components into a Web system or other network system.